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BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1964.

TELEPHONE: DEVIZES 24

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
NORTHGATE HOUSE,
DEVIZES,
WILTSHIRE

To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Devizes.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough of Devizes for the year 1964.

In compiling this report, recommendations contained in the Ministry of Health Circular No.1/65 are followed. Being an account of the health of the area it contains in addition to vital statistics and information on communicable disease, information on services provided under the Public Health, Food and Drugs and Factories Acts. Special reference is made to certain services which may be of special interest either in terms of topical, local or national aspect.

I wish to record my appreciation for the ready help given by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. K. Wildey, whose report is incorporated within, also for that of the Health Department Clerical Staff. The report would not be complete without data supplied by Officers in other Departments, and I acknowledge their assistance here and in relevant sections within.

A most important function of this Department is that of checking on the fitness and quality of many commodities. Considerable sampling must be undertaken, especially of foodstuffs, milk and water. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. P. Wormald, Director of the Salisbury Public Health Laboratory for his always ready and willing assistance in this matter.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support, and for their understanding shown towards a newcomer unversed in their ways.

I have the honour to be
Your Obedient Servant,

ALAN H. HALSTEAD.

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :-

A.H. HALSTEAD, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Also M.O.H. Devizes Rural District Council, Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer for Wiltshire County Council - Allocation of salary for such "mixed appointments" is made. Two elevenths of the salary for this appointment is allocated to the Devizes Borough Council.)

Public Health Inspector :-

K. WILDEY, M.P.H.I.A., C.R.S.I., C.G.L.I. (San.Eng.).

Rodent Operative:-

F.W. BARRETT (Part-time, being shared with Devizes Rural District Council)

Health Office Clerks:-

MRS. E.E. NOAKES
MRS. Y.F. STOREY.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	1,419.87
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	8,780
Number of Inhabitable dwellings as at 1st April, 1964	2,961
Number of Council Dwellings as at 1st April, 1964	940
Number of Applicants for Council Dwellings	235
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1964	£324,888
Estimated Product of 1d Rate as at 1st April, 1964.	£1,330

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and Death Rates compared with other areas (Births and Deaths per 1,000 population) Standardised.*

	Birth Rate		Death Rate	
	1963	1964	1963	1964
Devizes Borough	14.8	16.2	7.5	10.6
England and Wales	18.2	18.4	12.2	11.3
Wiltshire	20.2	20.2	11.5	10.0
Devizes Rural District	17.7	18.4	10.8	9.4

*Comparability figures are supplied to each District by the Registrar General. These take into account the varying age/sex distribution of the population in different parts of the Country. When applied to the local rates, they allow a more accurate comparison to be made between different areas.

Births and Infantile Deaths.

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Live Births	66	69	4	3	142
Still Births	1	2	0	0	3
Deaths under 1 year	3	0	0	0	3
Deaths under 4 weeks	1	0	0	0	1
Deaths under 1 week	0	0	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate.

Only three deaths among children under 1 year occurred. There were 142 live births, although a rate could be calculated, it would have little value for comparative purposes, since the numbers are so small. The National Rate is 20.0 deaths per thousand live births and the Wiltshire Rate 22.1.

Natural Increase - Increase of live births over deaths .... 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	1964. Male	1964. Female	1964. Total.	1963 Total.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	0	0	0	0
2. Tuberculosis, other.	0	0	0	0
3. Syphiliyic disease.	0	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria.	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections.	0	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	0	0	0	0
8. Measles.	0	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	0	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	0	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	2	4	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	0	4	4	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	0	1	1	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	11	17	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	0	0	0	0
16. Diabetes.	1	0	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	8	12	18
18. Coronary Disease, angina.	20	16	36	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	1	2	1
20. Other heart disease.	7	6	13	13
21. Other circulatory disease.	4	2	6	1
22. Influenza.	0	0	0	1
23. Pneumonia.	7	9	16	8
24. Bronchitis.	1	1	2	1
25. Other disease of respiratory system.	2	0	2	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	0	2	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	0	1	1	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	0	1	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	0	0	0	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	0	0	0	0
31. Congenital Malformations.	2	0	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined disease.	5	12	17	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	0	0	0	2
34. All other accidents.	0	0	0	1
35. Suicide.	1	0	1	3
Total	67	74	141	101

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases.

The following tables give details of the cases notified during the past five years together with age incidence of cases in 1964 :-

Disease	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Measles	2	109	3	26	155
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	28	8	0	1	3
Scarlet Fever	11	9	29	20	6
Tuberculosis	2	5	3	2	2
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0
Acute pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	1	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	0	0	1
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0

Disease	Age Groups					Age not Known.	All Ages.
	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65+		
Measles	56	90	2	0	0	7	155
Whooping Cough	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Scarlet Fever	3	2	0	0	0	1	6
Tuberculosis	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Measles.

155 cases of measles were notified during the year, mostly during the months of July and August. Though the number was high an outbreak was rather to be expected, for as may be seen from the table, the last outbreak was in 1961. There is a tendency for measles to occur in two-yearly cycles, since for an outbreak to occur, there must be an adequate number of susceptible children within the community.

Fortunately, the disease is mostly of a mild nature in this Country, complications affecting chest, ears or nervous system may occur but are relatively infrequent.

Communicable Diseases Contd.

Scarlet Fever.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were few and isolated. Young children in the 2 - 5 year age group being those affected. It is well to consider that cases which present as Scarlet Fever are only a fraction of the number of persons who may be affected in some way by the germ responsible. Many people may be carrying the germ in their throats without more than a minor sore throat, other symptoms being absent. It is important that anyone suffering from a sore throat should be aware of the possibility of his spreading the infection by sneezing and coughing, to other people - who may react in a more serious way than he does.

Diphtheria.

No notifications were received. To maintain this state it is essential that over 70% of the population should be actively immunised against the disease. This is an aim of the immunisation programme run by the Wiltshire County Council.

Whooping Cough.

Three cases were notified. Immunisation against this disease is carried out at the same time as that against Diphtheria and Tetanus. The "Triple Vaccine" used giving protection against all three diseases in one course of injections.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases were notified. Immunisation against this disease continues, using the oral vaccine.

Smallpox.

No cases were notified. Vaccination against this disease is carried out by Family Doctors at their patient's request.

Enteric Diseases.

No cases of Typhoid, Paratyphoid fever, Dysentery or Food Poisoning were notified.

Communicable Diseases Contd.

Tuberculosis.

Two cases of tuberculosis of the lungs were notified by the Chest Physician. In such cases full investigation is undertaken by the Chest Clinic and all contacts screened. Chest X-ray or skin testing techniques being used to investigate possible spread to contacts. B.C.G. vaccination is available and is also offered under the Wiltshire County Council's immunisation scheme to all school children if on skin testing, they are found to have inadequate immunity to the disease.

Non-notifiable Infections.

Many infectious conditions exist which are not notifiable except by special action on the part of the local authority. Such action may be advisable if a particular condition is unusually troublesome in the area and if study and control of its spread is made easier by notification. Among those infections which affect large numbers of the community from time to time are influenza and other virus illnesses of the respiratory or alimentary systems. While the effects are usually mild and the illness of short duration, both social and economic upset may result. Virus diseases are assuming more significance year by year. Considerable work is going on to identify the various agents and the illnesses they cause, but as yet we have not had the same success at developing vaccines as we have had with the bacterial infections. Laboratory investigations of samples for virus infection is a complex and difficult matter. Epidemiological control is thus far from simple and we must rely on the good sense of our fellow men. Much may be achieved by simple hygiene measures, unfortunately such practises are often ignored, for example, many of us treat our "colds"too lightly and pay little heed to the risk of passing them on to others. Since the most infective stage of the majority of respiratory and other virus infections is during the first few days of the illness, it is sensible that one should consider others as well as one's self during this time.

Brucellosis.

The risk of contracting this disease from infected milk remains. The matter has been referred to in previous Annual Reports and the Council's attention drawn to the weakness of existing legislation. Since much of the milk consumned in this area is untreated milk, the risk is that much higher. Supervision of milk by sampling for cleanliness and safety must be maintained at the highest level.

The disease is insidious in its nature and often difficult to diagnose. A true estimate of its incidence is difficult to obtain.

PREVENTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Immunisation against those diseases referred to can be obtained at either the Local Health Authority's Child Welfare Clinics, Immunisation Sessions in Schools, or from one's Family Doctor :-

I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following figures concerning vaccination and immunisation procedures in Devizes Borough during the year :-

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATIONS.

Year of Birth		1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54
Primary Immunisations Completed During 1964.	Diphtheria	66	78	6	-	3	9	-
	Whooping Cough	66	78	5	-	1	-	-
	Tetanus	66	78	6	1	3	24	1
Reinforcement Injections Administered During 1964.	Diphtheria	-	62	40	9	5	84	1
	Whooping Cough	-	61	31	5	3	11	1
	Tetanus	-	62	40	9	6	89	6

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.

	Months				Years			
Age Group	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over
Vaccinations	-	1	4	4	48	3	2	7
Re-vaccinations	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	36

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINTIONS

AGE GROUP	2nd. inj.	3rd. inj.	4th inj.	3 Oral doses	3rd Oral after 2 inj.	4th Oral after 2 ing and 1 oral	4th Oral after 3 inj. or 3 oral
1964	-	-	-	17	-	-	-
1963	9	-	-	61	-	-	1
1962	1	5	-	25	6	5	2
1961	-	1	-	10	-	3	2
1943 - 1960	-	1	1	35	1	5	96
1933 - 1942	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	7	1	-	1
	10	7	1	159	8	13	102

Local Health Authority Services.

These are provided by the Wiltshire County Council. Health Visiting, Midwifery, Home Nursing, and Home Help Services are all available in the Borough, in addition to which chiropody services are provided for the elderly.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the New Park Street Clinic weekly. There are also held at this Clinic certain of the associated clinic facilities of the School Health Service.

The new Clinic premises were opened for use in September 1963. The amenities provided by such a "purpose-built" unit are greatly appreciated by patients and staff.

Old People.

Visits have been made during the year to old people who are either known to the Medical Officer or who are brought to his attention by Social Workers. It is accepted policy that the aged should continue to live in their own homes for as long as possible. To this end existing public and voluntary services need to be used to their maximum advantage. Local Health Authority Services are provided by the Wiltshire County Council, but this Council assist the aged both by housing and by financial help towards the W.V.S. Meals on Wheels Service.

Accommodation was dealt with in some detail in the Annual Report for 1963. No new developments were started in 1964 but preliminary negotiations were in hand regarding the site of the anticipated group dwelling.

Work on the new County Council Welfare Home proceeded towards completion.

Action under the National Assistance Acts 1948 and 1951.

The Council having certain powers under this Act with regard to elderly or other persons being in need of care and attention, have delegated their Medical Officer to act in an emergency by obtaining a Justice's Order so that such persons may be admitted to Hospital or suitable premises for a limited period. Such a procedure is only undertaken as a last resort.

Unfortunately, one case occurred early in the year requiring such action. This case concerned an elderly woman with a grave chronic disease, who had taken her discharge from Hospital and refused medical treatment previously. She became increasingly incapacitated, to such a degree that hospital admission was essential. As she refused to be admitted, compulsory removal was the only solution.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water is supplied by the North Wilts Water Board who took over the function as Water Authority from the Council in October 1962.

Two sources, consisting of deep wells at Shepherds Shore and boreholes at Bourton, supply water to the Town through a 12" main from the reservoir at Shepherds Shore. Up to this year little difficulty had arisen from the source other than short breaks in supply due to electrical failures at Pumping Stations, and there had been little fear of shortage. During the summer of 1964, however, increasing anxiety was felt and by September, a serious state of water shortage developed in most of the Board's area, the basic cause being a lack of rainfall during 1963 and 1964.

Annual Rainfall	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
	33.83	28.28	39.38	25.64	28.43	28.60	20.67

Rainfall during the months November - April provides the best percolation through to the water bearing strata and in the past three years these months have been comparatively dry e.g.

Rainfall from November to April	1958/59	1959/60	1960/61	1961/62	1962/63	1963/64
	16.50	17.47	19.38	14.28	13.09	13.10

The 1964 rainfall figure is the lowest of records available to the Board and is 65% of the average over the past 27 years. Devizes has been as seriously affected as any area by this emergency.

Normally, an average consumption of about 750,000 gallons per day is required from the Devizes sources but during the Summer months an extraction of below 650,000 gallons per day had been obtained, this resulting as well in dangerously low pumping levels. A deficit of about 100,000 gallons per day has had to be accepted and this has been met by the cutting off of the supply to the Town each day for 10 hours at night time.

A comprehensive scheme has been prepared by the Board (with an estimated requirement for this area of 900,000 gallons per day in 1990). The anticipated increase in demand is to be met by provision of a new source capable of supplying at least 250,000 gallons per day, and by provision of a link mains to enable water to be brought in to Devizes from the Board's sources at Chippenham. The link mains are to be laid in 1965 but when the new sources in the Malmesbury area are brought in to use later in the year, adequate supply should be secured.

Water Supplies Contd.

Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains 2,944.

Number of population supplied by public water mains 8,753.

Quality.

Despite the deficiencies in quantity, quality has remained satisfactory. 18 raw samples of water have been taken by the North Wilts Water Board during the year :-

Date of Report of Sample.	Probable Number of Coliform bacilli Per 100 ml.	Probable Number of Bact. coli (Type I) per 100 ml.
January 31st	Nil.	Nil.
February 11th, 21st	Nil.	Nil.
March 6th, 19th	Nil.	Nil.
April 4th	Nil.	Nil.
May 22nd	Nil.	Nil.
May 30th	1	Nil.
June 16th	Nil.	Nil.
July 3rd	Nil.	Nil.
August 5th	Nil.	Nil.
August 21st	7	3
September 11th	Nil.	Nil.
October 13th, 29th	Nil.	Nil.
November 4th, 27th	Nil.	Nil.
December 16th	Nil.	Nil.

Numerous samples have been taken from taps in the Town both by the Water Board and your Public Health Inspector :-

	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Number of samples taken by the North Wilts Water Board	52	0
Number of samples taken by the Public Health Inspector	35	2
Total	87	2

The two unsatisfactory samples were shown to be polluted with non-faecal type coliform organisms only.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

Shepherds Shore Pumping Station - Tapping on Rising Main 15.12.64.

			Results in Parts Per Million.
Appearance	....	....	Clear and bright.
Colour	....	....	Nil.
Turbidity	....	....	Nil.
Odour	....	....	Nil.
pH	....	....	7.4
Electricity Conductivity		....	400
Chlorine present as Chloride		....	9
Hardness: Total	.....	....	235 carbonate
Nitrate Nitrogen	....	....	2.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen		....	0.0
Albuminoid Nitrogen		....	0.0
Fluoride (F)	....	....	Less than 0.1
Metals	....	....	Iron, zinc, copper & lead : absent.
Free Carbon Dioxide		....	14
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C			290
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate			210
210 Non-carbonate		....	25
Nitrite Nitrogen	....	....	Absent.
Oxygen absorbed	....	....	0.0
Residual Chlorine	....	....	...
Silica	....	....	...

It should be noted that water from these sources contains less than 0.1 p.p.m. of fluoride. This level is much lower than that recommended of 1 p.p.m. for protection against dental decay.

SEWERAGE

Treatment is undertaken at two sewage works. One at Roundway which serves the Hospital and Nursteed area, and the other at Bath Road which takes sewage from the remainder of the Town (together with Roundway Park and the Barracks).

Sewage is composed mostly of organic matter which has a vast appetite for oxygen. The aim of the purification plant is to reduce this oxidisable matter to a safe level so that the effluent may be discharged into rivers without harming water life.

Samples are taken periodically by the Avon River Board from both works. Figures for oxygen demand and suspended solids have been satisfactory during 1964.

HOUSING -1964.

During the past year the Council provided an additional 132 dwellings for letting. With the completion of Mayenne Place in October, 34 three bedroomed houses, 60 two bedroomed flats, 30 one bedroomed flats, 2 two bedroomed bungalows and 6 one bedroomed bungalows were made available.

Every opportunity was taken by the Letting Sub-Committee to make the best use of accommodation available by transferring smaller families to the flats, and thus leaving the houses for families with children. Eleven such transfers were arranged, all on a voluntary basis.

It was possible, for the first time, to offer accommodation to some ten families who worked in the Borough but lived elsewhere.

Eastleigh Road flats were made available for conversion as fast as the work could be undertaken. Six pairs of flats were completed and occupied during the year, bringing the total to ten.

The modernisation scheme for the pre-war houses was commenced and 43 were completed, With the 12 houses already modernised in Deramore Row, 55 pre-war three bedroomed houses have been provided with modern amenities.

Work was started on the Victoria Road extension, which will provide 60 two bedroomed flats and 9 three bedroomed houses.

Housing Contd.

The total number of dwellings owned and let by the Council at 31st December 1964 was :-

Pre-War.		
1 bedroomed bungalows	4	
3 bedroomed houses	242	
4 bedroomed houses	14	
Cottages.	27	
	287	287
Post War.		
1 bedroomed bungalows	15	
2 bedroomed bungalows	23	
1 bedroomed flats	117	
2 bedroomed flats	139	
3 bedroomed flats	6	
2 bedroomed houses	30	
3 bedroomed houses	411	
4 bedroomed houses	4	
	745	745
		1,032

At the annual review in January, 186 applicants re-registered, 212 new applications were received during the year, and at 31st December the number waiting was 235, comprised as follows :-

Applicants with no children	88	
Applicants with one child	42	
Applicants with two or more children	32	
	162	162
Applicants not living in the Borough but who qualify for registration		73
		235

In the sections dealing with Housing, Water and Sewerage it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. R.E. Paget, Borough Surveyor, Mr. C.R. Phillips, Water Engineer for North Wilts Water Board, and Mr. A.J. Draper, Housing Officer.

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

Health Department,
Northgate House,
Devizes,
Wiltshire.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Devizes Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixteenth Annual Report for the year 1964.

The particulars in this Report are in conformity with the Ministry of Health Regulations and Requirements.

I wish to extend my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support which they have given to me at all times in dealing with the many irksome problems which have arisen during the year. The co-operation and help received from all members of the Council's staff is much appreciated.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

K. WILDEY.

Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Over the past ten years 406 unfit houses have been dealt with under the Housing Acts by either closing, clearance or repair action, and a few informally. This is seven short of the 1955 Seven-year Slum Clearance programme. Of these, 296 have been demolished, 93 closed, and 17 repaired up to the standard fit for human habitation. Approximately 200 dwellings remain for action, by either repair, improvement, closure or demolition. Only a house to house detailed survey with cost factors will reveal how many of these dwellings are ripe for clearance because of obsolescence or being beyond repair or improvement at a reasonable expense.

During the year, Closing Orders were made on two houses, and the basement living-rooms of two other dwellings. Undertakings were received from owners to demolish twelve unfit houses as soon as practicable after the tenants of the remaining five occupied houses were rehoused. Six houses were repaired and made fit under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts.

The Ministry confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders on the lands and properties in the proposed Nursery Redevelopment Area (21 houses).

Property Repairs.

Owners were informally asked to abate the following :-

	Remedied.	Outstanding.
Defective waste pipes.	2	-
Defective ceilings.	2	-
Defective wall plaster.	3	-
Defective floors.	3	2
Defective windows.	5	4
Defective eaves gutters.	5	-
Provide food-store.	1	-
Dampness remedied.	8	-
Defective roofs.	4	2
Defective paving.	7	5
Defective doors.	6	4
Defective W.C.'s.	4	1
Defective chimney stack.	1	-
Dry rot remedied.	4	1
Defective pointing.	3	2
Rubbish removed from cellars.	1	-

Progress Returns Forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

		Displaced Persons.	Displaced Families.
Number of Houses DEMOLISHED			
In Clearance Areas			
1. Houses unfit for human habitation ..	15	5	5
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	0	0	0
3. Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.	0	0	0
Not in Clearance Areas			
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957.	16	0	0
5. Local Authority owned houses certified by the Medical Officer of Health	0	0	0
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	0	0	0
7. Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	0	0	0
Totals	31	5	5
Number of Unfit Houses CLOSED.			
8. Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	29	58	28
9. Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	0	0	0
10. Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 ..	3	8	3
Totals	32	66	31

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
11. After informal action by local authority	12	0
12. After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts	9	8
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	0	0
13. Under Section 24, Housing Act 1957.	0	0

UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)

	No. of Houses	No. of Separate Dwellings contained in Column (1)
	(1)	(2)
14. Retained for temporary accommodation :-		
(a) Under Section 48	0	0
(b) Under Section 17(2)	0	0
(c) Under Section 46	0	0
15. Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	0	0

PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT.

	No. of Houses	No. of occupants of houses in Column (1)
	(1)	(2)
16. Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year.	0	0

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Discretionary Grant.

Four schemes were approved during the year, consisting of :-

1. Bathroom extension with modern amenities.
2. Conversion of one dwelling into two self-contained flats.
3. Providing nine flats from one dwelling for elderly people - N.V.S. Housing Association.
4. Improving four cottages occupied by elderly people.

One scheme was completed at a total cost of £528.

Standard Grants.

Seventeen schemes were approved for grants up to a maximum of £2,070.

Eleven schemes have been completed during the year, six of which were approved during 1963 :-

Maximum Grant.	Amount Paid.	Cost of Repairs.	Total cost of Works.	Amenities Provided.				
				Baths.	H.W.	W.C.'s.	Larders.	W.B.'s.
£1,315.	£880.	£324.	£2,967.	6	11	6	7	6

Since 1960 the following number of houses, not including Council houses, have been improved with the aid of grants :-

Year Schemes approved.	Number of Houses Improved.
1960 - 1961	26
1961 - 1962	16
1962 - 1963	17
1963 - 1964	14
1964 - 1965	15
Total	88

The Housing Act 1964 came into operation in August and introduced changes which affect the procedure for the improvement of dwellings in several respects and in general, the main purposes of the Act is to accelerate the improvement of improvable houses which have a reasonable life and lack essential amenities by compulsion where necessary and practicable, as well as giving owners increased financial inducements to encourage the carrying out of improvements voluntarily.

Improvement Grants Contd.

Discretionary Grants are increased from £400. to £500. where conversion of houses are three or more storeys high.

Standard Grants.

The Council can give approval to a reduced standard if they are satisfied that the full standard cannot be provided at reasonable expense. The basic grant may now be increased to a maximum of £350. when the full scheme costs £700., or half of the additional amount of the reasonable cost of the work, where the Council consider it necessary to provide -

1. A bathroom by structural or conversion work.
2. Septic Tank drainage.
3. A piped water supply within the dwelling for the first time.

Other amendments affecting standard grants are :-

(a) Fixed maximum amount of cost to provide hot water at the bath £35., sink £25., and wash-hand basin £15., if one or more fittings are already provided with hot water.

(b) A portion of the cost of combination water-heaters or cookers with back-boilers for space heating, now qualifies for grant.

(c) Architects' and Surveyors' fees now rank for grant.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Under this Act all existing offices, shops and railway premises must be registered by the 31st July, 1964. Thereafter new premises before occupation and during change of occupier must be registered.

This Act makes every local authority responsible for enforcing its general provisions upon owners and occupiers of premises. The basic task of the inspector is to visit the premises in order to see whether they are discharging their duties and to secure a uniform and satisfactory standard of compliance, mainly in respect of registration, cleanliness, overcrowding, heating, ventilation, lighting, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, drinking-water supply, accommodation for clothing, seating for sedentary workers, eating facilities, soundness of structure of floors, passages and staircases, first-aid, dangerous condition and practises etc.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Contd.

Further the Act requires local authorities to continue routine inspections of all premises from time to time to see that requirements are being fully maintained, and to give detailed reports to the Ministry upon accidents. The Ministry do not suggest a frequency for periodical inspections of premises, although it is emphasised that all premises should receive an initial inspection as soon as possible, and not to be left as a residual duty whenever there is time to spare. Unfortunately, as you will see from the table below, owing to pressure of work, it was possible to make general inspections upon only 9 premises from the 1st August onwards, but it is anticipated with assistance, that the number will increase during 1965.

The following is an extract from the Annual Report required by the Ministry of Labour giving particulars of premises registered during 1964 -

	Number of Premises Registered.	Registered Premises Receiving General Inspections.	Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises, by Workplace.
Offices	53	2	353
Retail Shops	108	7	515
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	7	0	71
Catering Establishments open to Public, Canteens etc.	9	0	118
Fuel Storage Depots	1	0	2
	178	9	1,059
			(474 males) (585 females)

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises 27

Number of exemptions and prosecutions 0

Number of accidents 0

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES AND MILK SAMPLING.

There are ten distributors of milk on the Register, including four retail shops, two vending machines and four dairies. The dairies are inspected regularly. Twenty-two inspections were made and 230 samples of milk submitted for cleanliness and pasteurising efficiency tests; four sets of washed bottles were submitted for examination.

Number of Milk Samples Taken.	Type of Examination	Void*	Passed	Failed.
169	Cleanliness	23	140	6
61	Heat Treatment efficiency	0	61	0

*Twenty-three of these samples submitted gave void results owing to permissible atmospheric shade temperature being exceeded.

Forty-nine of the samples submitted for cleanliness tests were also submitted for biological tests and all were found to be satisfactory except one, which was positive for Brucella abortus. With the co-operation of the Dairyman, the milk from this source was directed for pasteurisation.

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Sewers and Drains.

A considerably amount of time was spent dealing with complaints of choked, defective and leaking drainage systems at 16 properties, especially where the drains served two or more properties in different ownerships, and the owners disputed liability. The cost of repair and renewals in four particular instances were £500., £242., £174., and £93. Two of which were done through the Council in default.

EXAMINATION OF PLANS

Deposited plans received in the Borough Surveyor's Department relating to the construction or planning of food premises, shops, factories, and other buildings with which the Public Health Department is concerned,were examined for compliance with relative statutes administered by this Department.

DISREPAIR CERTIFICATES

No applications for disrepair certificates were received during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Food Premises were visited as often as time would permit and informal notices sent and follow up visits made. Deficiencies found were:-

Defective walls	13
Defective ceilings	9
Defective floors	9
Absence of washing facilities	3
Absence of hot water to wash-hand basins	2
Absence of water closet	1
Clothes in foodrooms	6
Untidiness	11
Animals in kitchen	2
Waste-bins unsatisfactory	2
Faulty food equipment	8
Food cooked on unregistered premises	3
Redecoration of food-rooms required	28
Dirty sanitary conveniences	10
Dirty foodrooms	9
Absence of nail-brush	1
Absence of first-aid	2
Messroom 1. Not heated	1
2. No table.	1
Cracked crockery	1
Dirty cutlery	2
Dirty cellar	1
Food exposed to possible contamination	18

Food Inspection.

Food examined and voluntarily surrendered by Shopkeepers, Canteens and Institutions as unfit for human consumption was :-

Tins		Cwt.	lbs.	ozs.	Tins		Cwt.	lbs.	ozs.
-	Beef		60.	0.	-	Haddock		28.	0.
64	Meat		110.	3.	4	Fish		-	-
-	Pork		17.	12.	3	Rasberry Jam		-	-
-	Turkey		9.	0.	1	Marmalade		-	-
63	Vegetables		-	-	1	jar Capers		-	-
96	Fruit		-	-					
-	Milk Powder	2.	12.	8.		Frozen Foods			
1	Cream		-	-	23 pkts.	Meat	11 pkts.	Pastry	
19	Milk		-	-	56 pkts.	Vegetables			
3	Creamed Rice		-	-	20 pkts.	Fish	1 pkt.	Cream	

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 Contd.

Breath Screens.

Traders have been most co-operative in providing breath screens to protect food from possible risk of contamination, but I regret to say that it has been necessary on 17 occasions to ask shopkeepers to remove unwrapped food from the shelf forming the top of the breath screen.

ABERDEEN TYPHOID FEVER OUTBREAK AND CORNED BEEF.

Acting upon the Ministry's instructions to local authorities all Works' Canteens, Hospitals, School Kitchens, Restaurants, Cafes, Grocers' Shops, Butchers' Shops and premises serving meals (130 in all) within the Borough, were visited, and a considerable number of tins of corned beef were examined; 65 tins bearing the Argentine Establishment markings were found and arrangements made for their return to the Wholesalers for Ministerial action.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER 1957.

The premises of two Pig and Poultry Dealers are licensed with the Local Authority for boiling swill.

The premises were visited approximately once a month.

Investigations into a complaint of smell revealed that a farmer was breeding pigs and poultry on a large scale and boiling swill on unlicensed premises. The premises and methods of storage were very unsatisfactory. An Informal Notice was served and the farmer decided to buy cooked pig food instead of erecting premises for the proper storage and boiling of swill, on account of building costs.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936.

Four petroleum installations were approved (two for private use) 10 tanks. All the work was supervised and the tanks pressure tested before licensing. One disused installation was rendered safe by filling with water, and the licence cancelled. Three underground petroleum tanks and pipelines were tested under the "over twenty year life rule". One tank and set of pipelines from another tank failed the test. The tank was made obsolete and rendered safe and the pipeline renewed.

There are 31 premises registered under this Act which are regularly inspected to ensure they maintain the required standard.

CARAVAN SITES, AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

Licences were granted to the occupiers of land for the stationing of a caravan at two sites and the conditions imposed by the Council were fully complied with. There are now four caravan sites in the Borough, one caravan on each site.

PEST AND INSECT CONTROL

Complaints of serious cockroach infestation at three premises necessitated regular calls and systematic treatments.

The degree of infestation was considerably reduced at two of these premises, but in the third instance, the infestation continues to give serious trouble, owing to the fact that there are very long lengths of inaccessible heating ducts, which prevent us getting at the nests. While there has been a reduction of infestation in this third case, nevertheless, it continues to require our regular follow up visits and treatment.

RODENT CONTROL

The Devizes Borough and Rural District Councils continue, with mutual satisfaction, to share the services of the Rodent Operative on alternate weeks throughout the year.

In addition to dealing with infestation by rats and mice, the Rodent Operative also attended to complaints involving the ridding of premises of rabbits, moles, grey squirrels, woodworm, ants and wasps' nests etc.

Sixty-four complaints of rats and mice infestation were received which necessitated surveys of adjoining properties.

139 treatments and 2,015 visits to dwellings, business premises, Institutions, garden-sheds, poultry runs, pig-sties, sewage works and the Borough Refuse Tip were carried out. The Borough sewers were treated twice, covering sixty-nine and sixty-five manholes on each occasion.

The cores of the infestations were found in the sewers in Station Road and New Park Street, with light infestations in The Brittox, Southbroom and Morris Lane.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES

Inspections made in respect of -

HOUSING	- House inspections	39
	Revisits	23
	Rent Act	Nil.
	Improvement Grants	60
	Overcrowding Complaints	Nil.
	Ruinous buildings	2
	Houses in Multiple Lettings.	1
PUBLIC HEALTH	- Drains: Smoke-tested	7
	Colour-tested	59
	Water-tested	19
	Public Health nuisances	23
	Public Health nuisances abated	55
	School Inspections	4
	Visits to works in progress	144
	Clean Air Act	8
	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.	9
	Unclean houses.	Nil.
FOOD	- Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.	120
	Food Inspections	353
	Food and Drugs Act	9
	Hospital/School kitchens	5
	Dairies	11
	Meat-staining Regulations	1
	Food poisoning	Nil.
	Miscellaneous visits in connection with corned beef (Typhoid precautions)	131
	Visits in connection with: (a) Milk sampling	67
	(b) Water sampling.	21
FACTORIES	-Factories or Work Places	6
	Outworkers' premises.	Nil.
RODENT CONTROL	-Rodent Control	23
	Pest Complaints	11
MISCELLANEOUS	-Disease of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957	13
	Farms	Nil.
	Caravan Sites - Control of Development Act, 1960	2
	Pet Shops	1
	Petroleum Acts	29
	Air-pressure Tests applied to petroleum tanks	9
	Visits in connection with Infecticus Disease	4
	Interview with Builders/Owners/Representatives	157
	Other Miscellaneous visits	109
	Statutory Notices served	66
	Informal Notices served	107

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS ISSUED DURING THE YEAR

Circulars.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959
F.S.H2/64 Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1957.
No. 1/64 and 11/64 Building Control.
No. 3/64 Civil Defence: Care of the Homeless.
F.S.H.4/64 Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937 and 1938
Technical Circular No.8 Sewer Rat Harbourage.
No.53/64 Housing Act, 1964 Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings.
No.59/64 Housing Act, 1964 (Registration of Order) Rules 1964.
No.51/64 Housing Act, 1964 - Houses in Multiple Occupation.
No.41/64 Housing Act, 1964.

Statutory Instruments.

No.19 Meat (Treatment) Regulations.
No.141 Poisons (Fluoroacetamide and Fluoroacetanilide)Rules 1964.
No.191 Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.
No.1231 Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act (Exemption No.2) Order.
No.1247 Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act (Annual Reports) Order.
No.1289 Mineral Hydrocarbon in Food Regulations 1964.
No.1321 Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (First-aid) Regulations 1964.
No.1322 Offices at Building Operations etc. (First-aid) Regulations 1964.
No.964 Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Exemption No.1) Order 1964.
No.965 Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Washing Facilities) Regulations.
No.966 Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Sanitary Conveniences) Regulations 1964.
No.970 Offices, Shops and Railway Premises First Aid Order 1964 and Railway Premises Act, 1963 S.S. 24(2)(b), 80(3)(4).
No.1045 Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Commencement No.2) Order 196

Publications.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.
Infestion Control No.7 Efficiency of Warfarin etc. against rats and mice.
H.C. No.51/64 Housing Act, 1964 Houses in Multiple Occupation.
Circular No.53/64 Housing Act, 1964 Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings.
Ministry of Labour Factories Act, 1961 Duties of Local Authority.
Ministry of Labour Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 Advice on First-Aid treatment.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food :- Technical Circular No.9. Control of Mice with dust and poison solution.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food :- Technical Circular No.10 - New Rodenticide.

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FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced.	34	7	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	62	6	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	1	4	-	-
TOTALS	97	17	4	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found. Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3).	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).....	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective....	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including Outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
	4	4	-	-	-